

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 2, 1993

**TO:** Division of Shellfish Sanitation

**FROM:** Robert E. Croonenberghs, Ph.D., Director  
Division of Shellfish Sanitation

**THROUGH:** Eric H. Bartsch, P.E., Director  
Office of Water Programs

**SUBJECT:** Shellfish Plants - Policy - Aquaculture Operations

The following is the Division's policy regarding off-bottom or cage-type aquaculture operations. The Marine Resources Commission was contacted regarding their licensing guidelines which are provided in order that you may have reasonably informed discussions with growers. However, all potential harvesters will need to contact VMRC directly.

I. Shellfish Sanitation Requirements

A. Personal Use Only

1. If located in approved waters, no action is required by the grower or DSS. If the activity is taking place in restricted waters, the grower will have to relay them before use. He needs to be directed to VMRC if this is the case.
2. The grower should be cautioned that product is subject to harvest by others if not on leased bottom.
3. The grower should be called annually to make sure his intentions have not changed.

B. Intends to Sell Product

1. If the grower does not want to be certified, he may sell only to a certified dealer.
2. The grower may be certified as a boat operation with no building requirement as long as he washes, bags and tags over the harvest area. A refrigerated truck is required by the NSSP if he intends to ship out of state.
3. The grower will have to obtain a wet storage permit if certified by the Division.

4. The grower should be cautioned that product is subject to harvest by others if not on leased bottom.
5. An uncertified grower shall be called annually to make sure he knows what is required should he still intend to sell his product.
6. If a grower is culturing products in an area that is restricted seasonally during the warm weather months, then the Shellfish Specialist shall remind that grower of the change in classification seasonally.

## II. Marine Resources Commission Requirements

### A. Activities on Private Leased Grounds

1. No commercial registration license (harvesters license) and no gear license are required.
2. There is no limit on the size of the catch.

### B. Activities on Public Ground

1. There is a minimum catch per day for home consumption only of 250 clams and 1 bushel of oysters per person before a license is required.
2. A commercial registration license is required for amounts above the minimum catch whether the product is sold or not.